

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL

As shown on attached Forms PTO/SB/06 and PTO/SB/07, no additional claim-fee is due for this amendment. The petition fee is being charged to my deposit account. See page 5 and attached Form PTO/SB/17.

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In The Claims

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Cancel Claims 1-35; and add new Claims 36-51, as follows.

- 36. A method of managing ideas, comprising the steps of:
- (a) maintaining a computer database for accumulating ideas for prospectively patentable inventions; and
- (b) in exchange for transfers of property rights under patent rights to prospectively patentable inventions derived at least in part from the accumulated ideas, or in exchange for contractual obligations to transfer said property rights, providing contingent contractual rights to a portion of anticipated income derived from said property rights.

- 37. A method according to Claim 36, wherein step (b) comprises the step of:
- (c) providing said contingent contractual rights in an on-line marketable format.
- 38. A method according to Claim 37, wherein the format is an electronically tradable certificate.
 - 39. A method according to Claim 37, wherein step (c) comprises the step of:
- (d) enabling on-line transfer, sale, and/or auction of the contingent contractual rights
 - 40. A method according to 36, 37, 38 or 39, further comprising the step of:
 - (e) marketing said contingent contractual rights.

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- 41. A method according to Claim 36 or 37, wherein a computer system facilitates use of contributor computers to make on-line contributions of said ideas to the computer database; and wherein step (b) comprises the step of:
- (d) providing said contingent contractual rights by on-line communications between the computer system and the contributor computers.
- 42. A method according to Claim 36 or 37, wherein said ideas are systematically accumulated prior to filing any patent applications for inventions respectively derived at least in part from said accumulated ideas.

43. A method according to Claim 36 or 37, wherein said ideas include needs and/or requirements of said inventions.

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- 44. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 36.
- 45. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 37.
- 46. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 38.
- 47. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 39.
- 48. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 40.

49. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 41.

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- 50. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 42.
- 51. A computer readable storage medium(media), comprising computer executable instructions for causing a computer(s) to manage ideas, wherein the instructions cause the computer(s) to perform the method of Claim 43.

Disclosure in the Specification of the Subject Matter of the New Claims

The subject matter of new Claim 36 is disclosed in the specification at page 9, lines 17-19, page 14, lines 4 to 6 and page 14, line 11 to page 15, line 2.

The subject matter of new Claims 37 and 38 is disclosed in the specification at page 14, lines 11 to 17.

The subject matter of new Claim 39 is disclosed in the specification at page 14, lines 11 to 17 and page 41, lines 3-22.

The subject matter of new Claim 40 is disclosed in the specification at page 2, line 11 and page 40, lines 15-23.

The subject matter of new Claim 41 is disclosed in the specification at page 10, lines 17 to 19.

The subject matter of new Claims 42 and 43 is disclosed in the specification at page 9, lines 17 to 22.

The subject matter of new Claims 44-51 is disclosed in the specification at page 8, lines 16-18 and page 44, lines 18-21.